



CARIBOU COUNTY PROFILE

Prepared by Shelley Allen, Regional Economist, Idaho Commerce & Labor

430 N. 5th Avenue, Pocatello, Idaho 83205 — (208) 236-6710, ext. 3713

E-Mail: sallen@cl.idaho.gov — Labor Market Information website: cl.idaho.gov/lmi

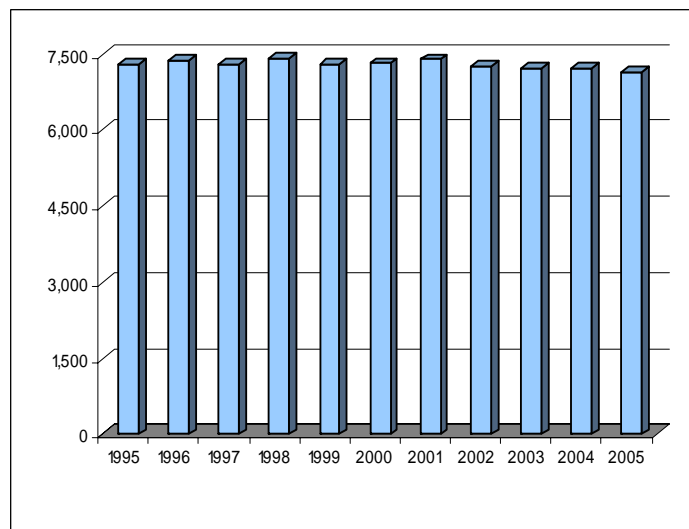
June 2006

Population

History, scenery, recreation, and industry combine to make Caribou County, which is a good example of what this country used to be—wide open spaces, friendly people, and a place to have fun.

Fluctuation sums up Caribou County's population changes between 1994 and 2004. Over the decade, the county's population decreased slightly to 7,213.

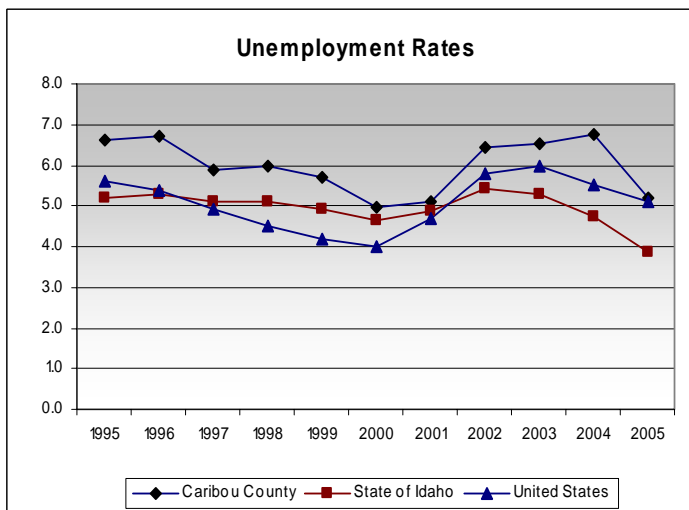
Caribou County sits at the hub of two designated scenic byways, The Pioneer Historic Byway and the Caribou Scenic Byway, which bring tourism into the county. Soda Springs, named for its natural carbonated springs, has a geyser which erupts every hour on the hour. The city of Grace is home to Heritage Safe Company, which has gained national attention for their commendable business practices.



Labor Force & Employment

Caribou County enjoys a diverse and highly skilled labor force with an excellent work ethic. The county's economy depends heavily on agriculture, phosphate mining, and manufacturing. During the decade, the *Civilian Labor Force* fluctuated with the availability of employment. Even though the federal government owns 42 percent of the land in Caribou County and provides more than 20 percent of the jobs, the county has suffered from high unemployment rates, which reached 7.6 percent in 2002. Over the decade, efforts to target and attract tourism have diversified the labor market and several *Service* and *Trade* sector businesses opened, driving unemployment rates down.

Because the county is heavily dependent on natural resource based industries (agriculture, mining, and manufacturing), both population and employment are influenced by the economic fluctuations that accompany those industries. Following national trends, jobs in Caribou County's

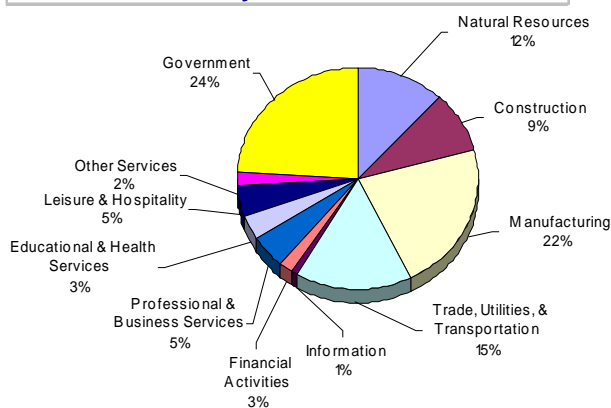


natural resource based industry, *Mining*, declined over the decade while jobs in *Construction*, *Manufacturing*, *Trade*, *Services*, and *Government Education* increased through 2001. Most of those increases were caused by a large-scale, industrial construction project, a joint effort between Astaris LLC and Agrium to build a purified phosphoric acid (PPA) manufacturing facility. Shortly after the completion of Agrium's PPA facility, the national recession and global competition led to the closure of Astaris LLC in Power County, eliminated the need for purified phosphoric acid and dramatically reduced employment throughout the county.

Labor Force	May 2005	May 2006
Civilian Labor Force	3,251	3,296
Total Employment	3,084	3,161
Unemployed	168	134
Caribou County % Unemployed	5.2	4.1
State of Idaho % Unemployed	3.9	3.4
U.S. % Unemployed	5.1	4.7

Labor Force	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Civilian Labor Force	3,243	3,332	3,259	3,256	3,105	3,279	3,438	3,443	3,423	3,257	3,354
Unemployment	213	222	192	195	178	162	176	221	223	220	174
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.6	6.7	5.9	6.0	5.7	5.0	5.1	6.4	6.5	6.8	5.2
Employment	3,030	3,110	3,067	3,061	2,927	3,117	3,262	3,222	3,200	3,037	3,180

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2004



Industry Employment and Wages

- Nearly half of all jobs in Caribou County are in the production of fertilizer, phosphorus, and weed killer. *Mining & Construction* provided 22 percent of the jobs and 24 percent of the wages. *Manufacturing* provided 25 percent of the jobs and 45 percent of the wages.
- Government is the next largest group providing 21 percent of the jobs in Caribou County. Nearly 90 percent of those jobs are in *Local Government*.
- Wages are higher than most of the state due to the influence of the phosphate mining and manufacturing in Caribou County. Although the average annual covered wage in Caribou County is among the highest in the state, per capita personal income ranks 17th at \$21,227. This is 87 percent of the state income level and 70 percent of the national level.

Major Employers

Agrium U.S., Inc.
Caribou Memorial Hospital & Living Center
Caribou County
J.R. Simplot Co., Smoky Mine
Heritage Safe Company
Monsanto Company
Washington Group International, Inc.

Occupational Wages*

Starting Wages

Cashiers, Retail	&\$5.50
Cooks	\$5.87
Food & Beverage Servers	\$5.74
Janitors	\$5.90
Laborers	\$6.38
Maids	\$5.89
Nurses, Registered	\$17.00
Office Clerks & Secretaries	\$6.85
Stock & Shipping Clerks	\$5.90
Teachers	\$30,000/yr.

* Additional Occupational Wage data can be found on the Idaho Commerce & Labor website at cl.idaho.gov/lmi.

- Covered employment and wages both declined in 2002. Employment fell 3 percent and wages fell 1 percent. The loss of jobs is the result of a decline in the mining and manufacturing industry. Lower wages are the result of the recent loss of jobs and long-term high unemployment, which pushes wages down.

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 1994, 2003, & 2004	1994		2003		2004	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
Total Covered Wages	2,844	\$28,099	3,135	\$35,873	2,995	\$36,876
Agriculture	38	\$15,990	66	\$16,258	73	\$15,422
Mining	509	\$36,000	376	\$44,657	358	\$47,225
Construction	204	\$29,062	318	\$45,166	260	\$34,196
Manufacturing	669	\$47,561	697	\$64,385	657	\$73,111
Trade, Utilities, & Transportation	471	\$16,655	459	\$22,184	447	\$22,991
Information	12	\$6,593	30	\$17,060	23	\$16,477
Financial Activities	57	\$17,134	59	\$21,642	59	\$21,874
Professional and Business Services	37	\$18,784	155	\$21,210	141	\$21,298
Educational and Health Services	92	\$12,969	92	\$17,240	101	\$16,840
Leisure and Hospitality	116	\$4,884	142	\$6,326	136	\$6,317
Other Services	32	\$11,309	50	\$13,401	50	\$14,207
Government	607	\$18,984	693	\$24,568	691	\$24,988

Per Capita Income	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Caribou County	\$18,487	\$18,874	\$20,290	\$20,210	\$20,390	\$20,607	\$20,853	\$21,963	\$22,159	\$24,250
State of Idaho	\$18,707	\$19,426	\$20,248	\$20,648	\$21,789	\$22,786	\$24,075	\$25,185	\$25,330	\$26,877
United States	\$22,172	\$23,076	\$24,175	\$25,334	\$26,883	\$27,939	\$29,845	\$30,575	\$30,804	\$31,472

Information provided by U.S. Census Bureau



This county is served by the office listed below:
Idaho Commerce & Labor
430 N. 5th Avenues
Pocatello, ID 83205-4087 Ph: (208) 236-6710

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